

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

## WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

### SITUATION REPORT # 32

1230 Hours November 21, 2005

*New Information in Bold Italics*

*Next Conference Call is scheduled for Wednesday, November 23, 2005, 0930 hours*

*Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1200 hours daily*

### SUMMARY

*The town of Big Stone Gap continues to experience water shortages due to drought like conditions. Actions are being coordinated with surrounding communities and the state to alleviate the adverse conditions. Contingency plans are in place for these actions to continue through November 30, 2005.*

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with limited staffing.

**State of Emergency:** On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

**Protective Actions:** Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

### WEATHER

**Forecast:** **Southwest VA: Monday 21 November** – Rain, high temperatures upper 40s to low 50s, northeast winds 5 to 15 MPH, chance of precipitation 90%. Monday night – Rain, low temperatures low to mid 30s, northwest winds 5 to 15 MPH, chance of precipitation 90% with a chance of snow showers above 3000 feet. **Tuesday 22 November** – Mostly cloudy and brisk, high temperatures mid to upper 30s, northwest winds 10 to 20 MPH, chance of precipitation 50% with a chance of snow showers and slight chance of rain showers in the morning then chance of rain and snow showers in the afternoon. Tuesday night – Mostly cloudy, low temperatures low to mid 20s, northwest winds 5 to 15 MPH, chance of precipitation 30%. **Wednesday 23 November** – Partly cloudy, high temperatures upper 30s to low 40s, southwest winds 5 to 15 MPH, chance of precipitation 20%

### OPERATIONS SECTION

**Local Liaison:** *VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Four Coordinator is in Wise County assisting local officials.*

### EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

**ESF 4 – Firefighting:** Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

The VDOF has signs in place notifying residents of the burn ban.

**ESF 8 – Health & Medical:**

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

VDH continues monitoring absenteeism in Big Stone Gap schools. No new cases of chickenpox reported and VDH will continue monitoring chickenpox for additional 21 days. Radiological test results are still pending, but are expected soon. VDH is compiling reports on current and future potential water sources such as the Bullet Mine and water test results are being compiled into a report. Well at Mt. Empire Community College and two wells in Appalachia are to be tested once pumps are activated.

**ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:**

Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)

The VNG continues the blivet support mission. Eleven blivets are in place. Twelve soldiers remain on mission. VNG developing transition plans for blivet operations and cave operations in coordination with local governments.

**HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH**

**ESF 11 – Agriculture & Natural Resources:**

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

***Water System Accountability Status, dated 9 November 2005, has been received and reviewed. The report documents identified and corrected leaks and concludes that losses have been reduced by 265,000 gallons since 1 August 2005. This report does not satisfy the requirements of VWP Individual Permit #05-2325 Condition D 4. This condition requires that Big Stone Gap monitor water production (from all sources) and water sales and calculate the amount of unaccounted losses on a monthly basis. Failure to comply with this condition could result in enforcement actions.***

**INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH**

**ESF 1 – Transportation:**

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

VDOT has four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area and messages are being changed frequently so members of the community do not become complacent. A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water

**LOGISTICS SECTION**

**ESF 7 – Resource Support:**

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies, and is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies. ***VEOC received request from Big Stone Gap to maintain National Guard support and blivet operations through 31 December 2005. VDEM/VEOC stressed need for Big Stone Gap to provide specific justification for extension of National Guard and blivet support. VDEM/VEOC stressed that Big Stone Gap needs to develop and implement plans to utilize commercial resources to support operations during recovery operations if they cannot provide justification for extension.***

**LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

Current Powell River stream flow is ***23 cubic feet per second and falling.*** Plans are being made to winterize and protect temporary above ground water facilities. ***Big Stone Gap purchasing electric pump for cave pumping operations.*** Big Stone Gap submitted request for extension of blivet operations for additional 30 days. All local governments are encouraged to develop and implement plans for transition of water supply management utilizing only local and private resources.

***Powell River Cave #1 produced approximately 200,000 gallons of water on 20 November.***